



# **Puppies For Parole Program Guide**

**Missouri Department of Corrections**



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# Puppies For Parole Program Guide

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## Introduction

Cyndi Prudden, former P4P program director

I can still remember the day we brought dogs into a prison for the first time. It was in 2002 and we were considering partnering with CHAMP Inc. (Canine Helpers Allowing More Possibilities), at the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Vandalia. I was a Deputy Warden at the time. The day after the CHAMP group, including both two- and four-legged visitors, toured the facility, we were flooded with letters from the offenders in the administration offices! These letters were very touching and recorded such sentiments as, "I haven't pet a dog in 10 years." It was very moving and made me realize how much we take for granted and how important it is to be able to bury your hands into a dog's fur and what therapy that is. I personally witnessed the significant difference having dogs living in the institution made in the atmosphere of the facility and in the morale of staff and offenders; it was truly amazing. Later, I was so excited to be a part of the launching of Puppies for Parole (P4P) in 2010 and then to become the Program Coordinator in 2011.

**The difference this program has made in the lives of the offenders is phenomenal.**

We lovingly refer to P4P as a "win, win, win!" It truly is a win for the offenders whose lives have changed for the better, the dogs who find loving homes, the communities and the shelters who find adoptive homes for the dogs. It has improved the atmosphere of our prisons and has been a boost to staff morale. The difference this program has

made in the lives of the offenders who have been a part of it is phenomenal. Offenders report that the responsibility of caring for a dog 24 hours a day has helped them to become better parents, better neighbors to one another and more responsible — and that it has generally improved their lives. P4P has changed the atmosphere in our prisons. It has bridged the gap between staff and offenders like no other program. We all have a common goal of taking

care of the dogs and finding them loving forever homes.

P4P is restorative for the offenders involved. It allows them to give back to their communities by training dogs to make them more adoptable. Although it can be extremely difficult to let a dog go to his forever home after having bonded with the dog, offenders know that they have made a difference, and the experience has been rewarding. Offenders involved in the program have the opportunity to be trained and certified through the United States Department of Labor's Apprenticeship Program. A number of offenders have reported finding employment in the animal handling field because of their training.

Dogs who were unwanted, unloved and discarded have become service animals, search-and-rescue dogs, and wonderful additions to families in Missouri and across the country. We have heard from countless people who share with us the difference a P4P dog has made in their lives. Whether they go on to help a child, aid a veteran, or become search-and-rescue dogs, they are all given a second chance at a life with purpose. They brighten our days, enrich our lives and, in some cases, even save lives!

P4P has been such a huge success in all of these ways and more. It is definitely a team effort and would not be possible if not for our staff, offender handlers, shelter partners and volunteer trainers. Congratulations on reaching this milestone and saving 5,000 dogs from being euthanized or living their lives in a shelter, and helping families to find trained dogs that will enrich their lives.

Whether your part in this success is being a P4P coordinator, a volunteer trainer, or just someone who encourages an offender or brings treats for a dog, please know that P4P's incredible success is because of you. I for one count it a blessing to have been involved in this remarkable program.

Here's to continued success and helping 5,000 more dogs find their forever homes with lucky families!

**250th Dog** **Puppies for PAROLE**

**With Faith, Puppies for Parole Reaches a Milestone**  
Border Collie named Faith celebrated as the 250th dog adopted from the program

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Faith has a new lease on life thanks to Puppies for Parole. The 1-year-old female Border Collie was starved, abused and scared. That all changed, though, on January 28, 2011, when Faith arrived at South Central Correctional Center (SCCC) in Licking. She was not accustomed to the type of care and affection she would receive at the institution. Faith's life prior to Puppies for Parole could be described as "rocky," at best.

The Animal Shelter of Texas County received Faith from a man who pulled up in a truck and said he had a dog he no longer wanted. When the staff at the shelter informed her that they would check and see whether they had space for Faith at the shelter, he immediately informed the staff that if they did not take the dog, he would shoot her and leave her to die. Faith showed signs of abuse and was very skittish, especially around men.

Two offender handlers were charged with the task of training Faith. The offenders previously trained a deaf Dachshund named Zeus, who was donated to the Missouri School for the Deaf. The two handlers said they used a lot of positive reinforcement to earn Faith's trust.

"One of the first things she did was jump from our bottom bunk to the top bunk," one offender handler said. "She would jump from the bottom bunk to the top of her crate. So we had to show her how to safely get down from the bottom bunk."

*Faith continues on page 2*

**They brighten our days, enrich our lives and in some cases, even save lives!**





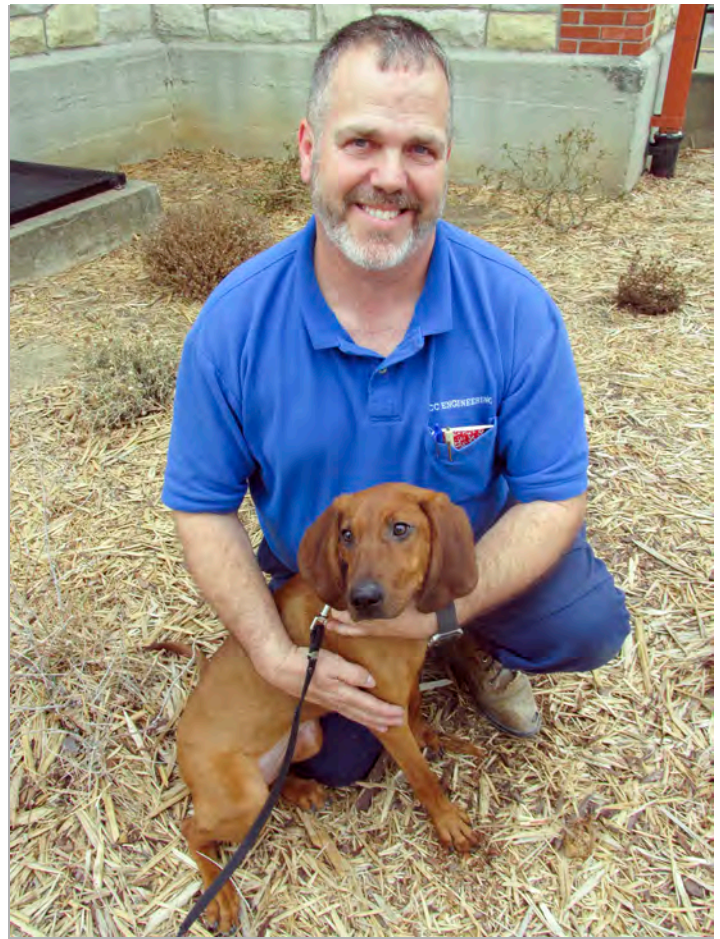
# Ellie – P4P’s 5,000th Adoption

## Algoa Correctional Center



Ellie is a Redbone Coonhound mix who came into the Puppies for Parole program from the Grabb Animal Shelter in Fulton, Missouri, where she was found as a stray with her mother. When she was four months old, she was enrolled in the S.T.A.R.S. (Socialization Training for Animal’s Reentry into Society) P4P program at Algoa Correctional Center (ACC) in Jefferson City, Missouri, to learn basic obedience. Because she was a puppy, she took a little longer to train than a more mature dog. She was easily excitable and preferred to play with the other dogs rather than greet them and move on. She will immediately sit perfectly or lie down when she knows a treat is nearby. Playing fetch is her favorite activity, especially if a squeaky ball is involved. Although she is now 10 months old, she is still very much a puppy. Her handlers put a lot of work into developing her into the great dog she is.

Ellie was adopted upon first glance by ACC employee Brian Hogue. He already had another coonhound at home, and when he saw her, he knew she needed to join his family. Brian has always liked hound dogs and their distinctive baying sounds. He has had several hounds as pets throughout his life, and he says they are good dogs and make wonderful pets. Brian is not going to use Ellie to hunt as many do with hounds, but she will get plenty of exercise loving her new family.



Ellie’s new owner ACC employee Brian Hogue





# Algoa Correctional Center



Program name: **STARS**  
Socialization Training for Animal's  
Reentry into Society

Year program introduced: 2011

Number of adoptions: 416

Number of offenders who have  
received U.S. Department of Labor  
Apprenticeship Certificates for  
Animal Handling: 15

Partnering shelter: Grabb Animal  
Shelter, Fulton, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Annual booth at Oktoberfest in Jefferson City, Missouri
- Nursing home visits
- Bring Christmas to Mexico Veteran's Home with adopted dog Soldier
- Regular stop on Jefferson City Convention and Visitor's Bureau bus tour



Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in mental health classes and medical unit
- Visit offenders in restorative justice work area
- Visit staff in administration and maintenance areas



# Boonville Correctional Center

Program name: **IMPACT**  
Inspire and Motivate Prisoners and  
Canines Together

Year program introduced: 2013

Number of adoptions: 274

Recently began having offenders work to earn U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificate for Animal Handling: none awarded yet

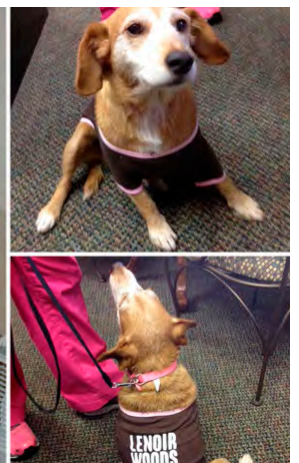
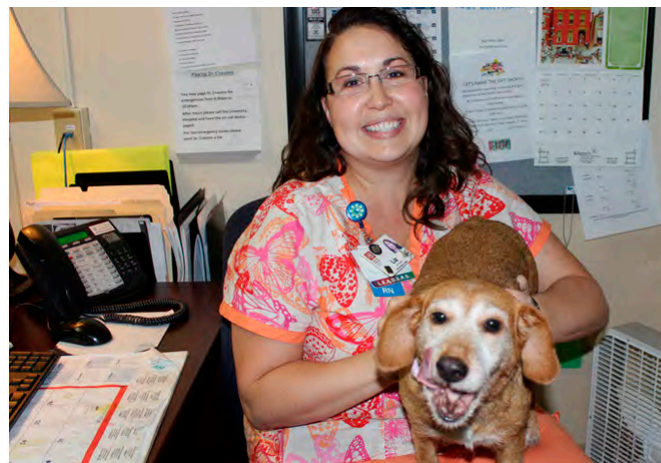
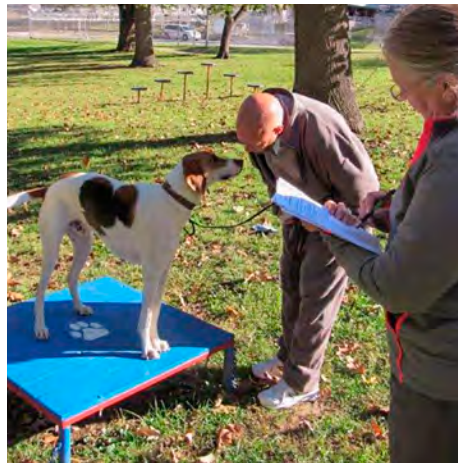
Partnering shelter: Marshall Animal Shelter in Marshall, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Mutt Strut community event
- Distribute pumpkins to elementary school with Restorative Justice program

Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in 120-day program
- Visit institutional parole staff members
- Attend Impact of Crime on Victims Classes and Anger Management Classes with offenders





# Chillicothe Correctional Center



Program name:  
**Hopeful Hounds**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 430

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 36

Partnering shelters: Green Hills Animal Shelter, Trenton, Missouri and Chillicothe Animal Shelter, Chillicothe, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Visit area nursing home
- Participate in annual Christmas parade

Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in the medical unit
- Visit offenders in Women's Secure Social Rehabilitation Unit
- Visit offenders in the drug treatment program





# Crossroads Correctional Center

Program name: **New Leash on Life**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 374

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 39

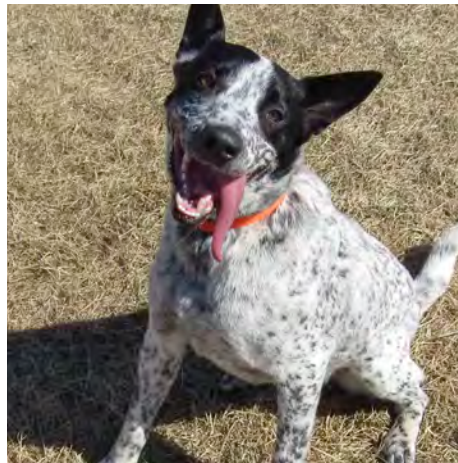
Partnering shelter: City of Cameron Animal Shelter, Cameron, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Partnering with Cameron in creation of new dog park with pet-friendly watering station
- Talking with Better Dog Rescue to potentially screen dogs for National Disaster Search and Rescue Dog Foundation

Institutional involvement:

- Visit Enhanced Care Unit
- Dogs go to work with offenders at the institution in the library and in the maintenance department
- Staff request to have the dogs visit their work areas





# Eastern Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center



Program name: **Paws for a Cause**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 282

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 2

Partnering shelter: Human Society of Southeast Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Missouri



Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in the Transitional Care Unit
- Visit canteen, recreation building, custody complex, library, property and the institution yards to meet and greet staff and offenders



# Farmington Correctional Center

Program name: **AK94U**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 174

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 4

Partnering shelter: Farmington Pet Adoption Center (FPAC), Farmington, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Attend Mineral Area College Health Fair to provide education to the community on various dog-related topics and provide training demonstrations
- Participate in All Bark Village Dog Park yearly celebration in Herculaneum
- Donated community information bulletin board for dog park
- Collaborate with local school to teach dog etiquette

Institutional involvement:

- Participate in weekly pet-therapy sessions in Secure Rehabilitation Unit and the Treatment Center
- Visit medical unit, education department, library, property room and housing units





# Jefferson City Correctional Center



Program name: **STAY**  
Socialization Therapy between  
Animals & You

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 515

Number of offenders who have  
received U.S. Department of Labor  
Apprenticeship Certificates for  
Animal Handling: 15

Partnering shelters: Jefferson City  
Animal Shelter in Jefferson City  
Missouri, and Dogwood Animal  
Shelter Osage Beach, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Donated STAY program funds to shelters in need of help including: Jefferson City Animal Shelter, Dogwood Animal Shelter, High Tails Sanctuary, Dent County Animal Shelter, Texas Humane Society, Austin Pets Alive, and Stray Rescue of St. Louis
- Provided special training to dogs for an autistic child, nursing homes, people with PTSD, and people who are deaf and hard of hearing



Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders and staff in Special Social Rehabilitative Unit, Enhanced Care Unit and Restorative Justice department



# Maryville Treatment Center

Program name: **Maryville Treatment Center Puppies for Parole**

Year program introduced: 2012

Number of adoptions: 103

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 10

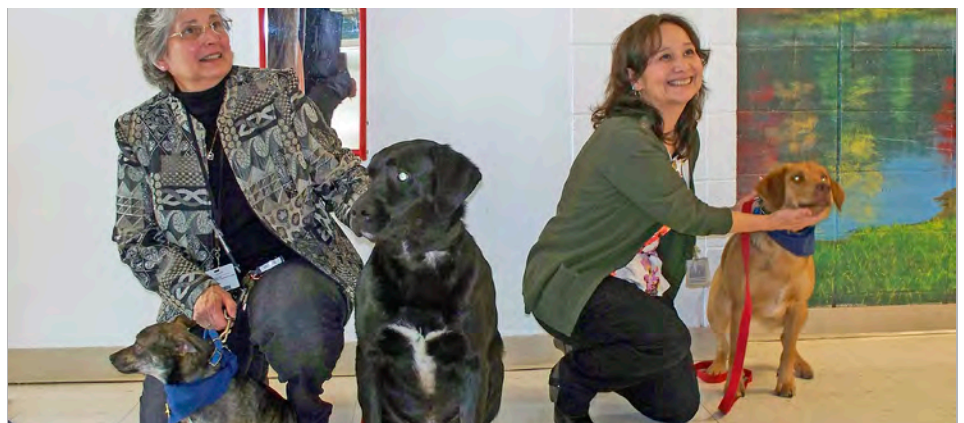
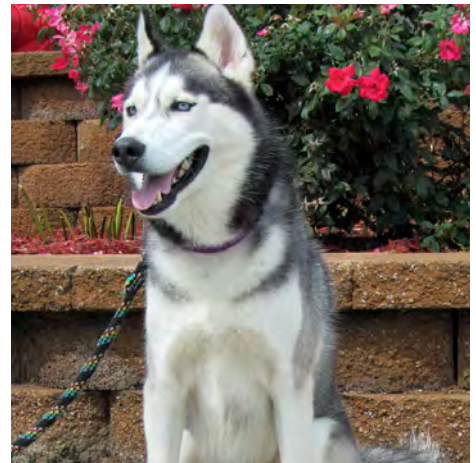
Partnering shelter: New Nodaway Humane Society, Maryville, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Presentations at various community agencies; Nodaway Humane Society Luncheons

Institutional involvement:

- Visit/attend offender treatment classes and groups
- Perform on the agility equipment at the institution
- Participate in the Dog Reading program where offenders practice reading aloud to a dog to build confidence in their reading skills





# Missouri Eastern Correctional Center



Program name: **MECC P4P**

Year program introduced: 2014

Number of adoptions: 106

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 30 –*Three of those offenders were hired by partnering shelter upon release.*

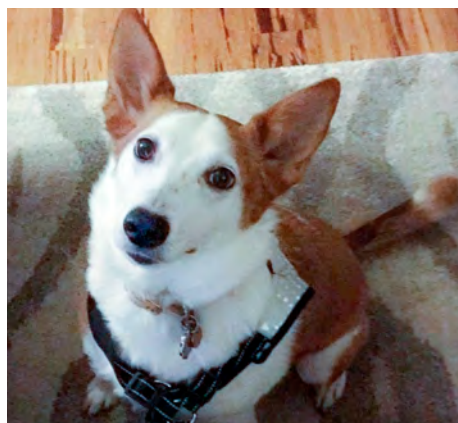
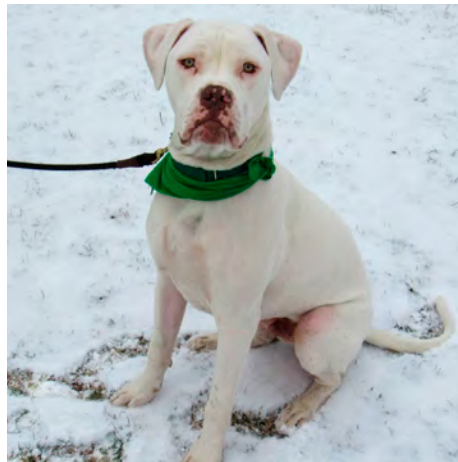
Partnering shelter: Stray Rescue of St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Donated portions of their fund-raising proceeds to pay for a week of adoptions at Stray Rescue of St. Louis
- Donated paintings created by offender to be auctioned off at the Urban Wanderers Art Show held at the St. Louis University Museum of Art

Institutional involvement:

- Visit staff and offenders in program areas, education, and housing units
- Visit children who participate in the 4-H visiting program each month





# Moberly Correctional Center

Program name: **HOUNDS**  
Helping Offenders Understand (the)  
Need (for) Dog Socialization

Year program introduced: 2011

Number of adoptions: 278

Number of offenders who have  
received U.S. Department of Labor  
Apprenticeship Certificates for  
Animal Handling: 5

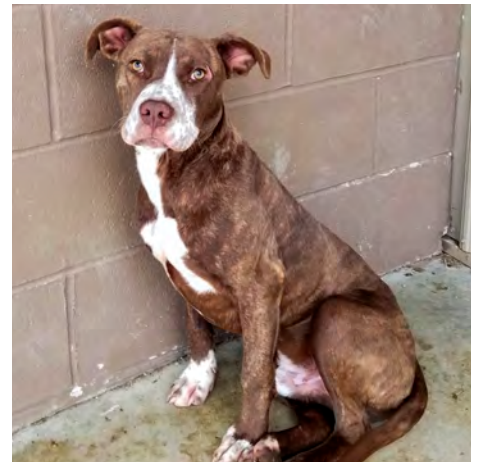
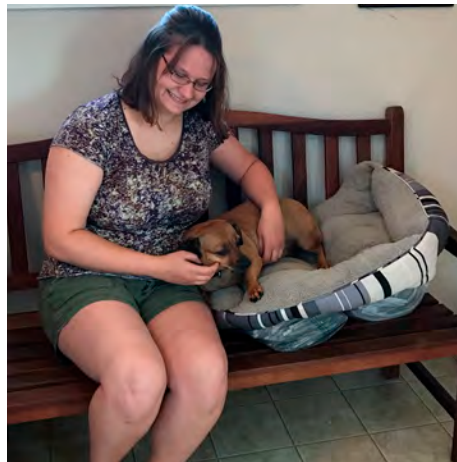
Partnering shelter: Moberly Animal  
Shelter, Moberly, Missouri and  
Adair County Humane, Kirksville,  
Missouri

Community involvement:

- Provide trophies for the Dog Show during Railroad Days in Moberly, Missouri
- Restorative Justice program makes items for auction to generate funding to offset shelter expenses such as neutering and vaccinations

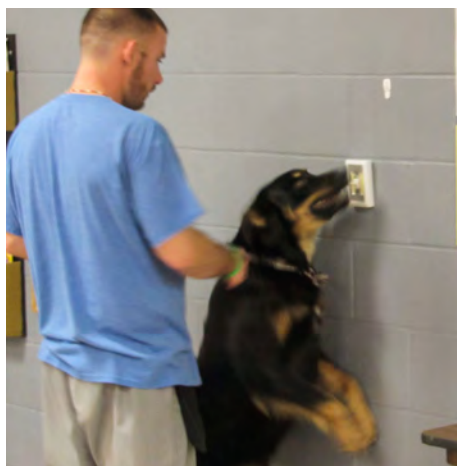
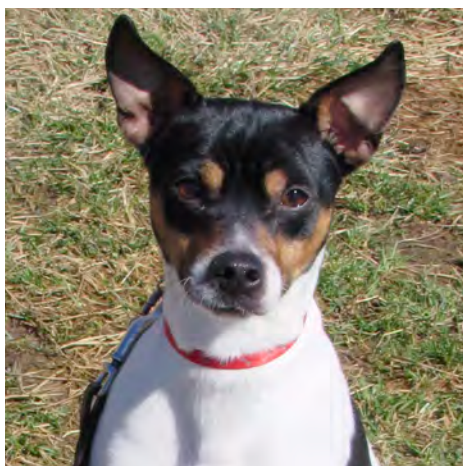
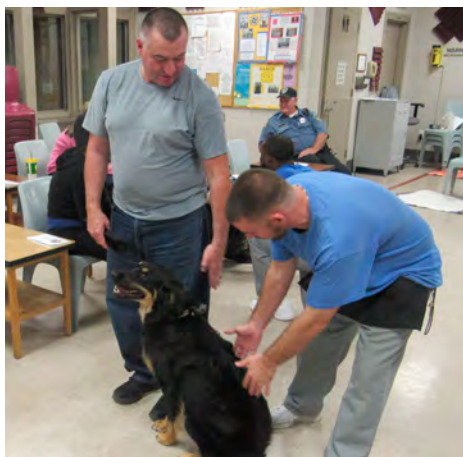
Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in the Transitional Care Unit
- Visit offenders in Administrative Segregation





# Northeast Correctional Center



Program name: **Homeward Bound Project**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 235

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 3

Partnering shelter: Northeast Missouri Humane Society, Hannibal, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Homeward Bound graduations – New owners are encouraged to come to the institution and meet the handlers when they pick up their dogs
- Recently began working with the Missouri Patriot Paws Program to provide pre-training for dogs that will go on to be certified service dogs

Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in the treatment program
- Visit offenders in Transitional Care Unit, receiving and orientation, medical unit, and housing units
- Have a house dog that can be checked out by staff members

# Ozark Correctional Center

Program name: **Ozark Correctional Center Puppies for Parole**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 350

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 5

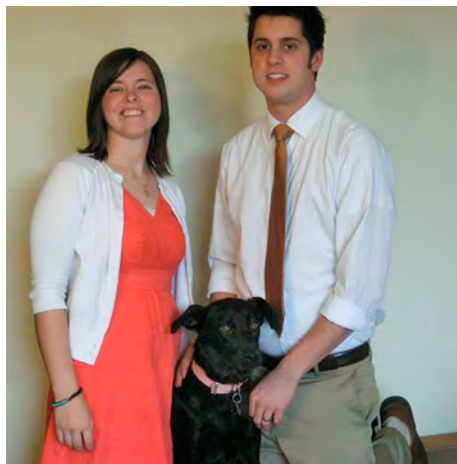
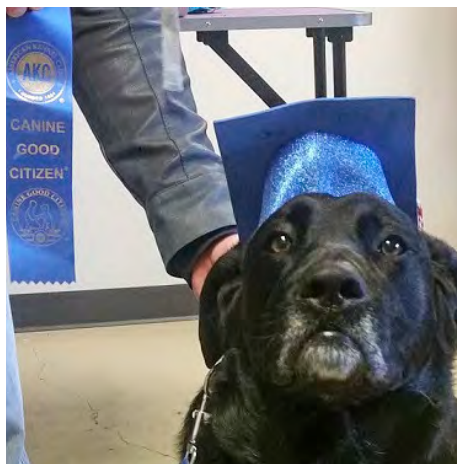
Partnering shelter: The Humane Society of Southwest Missouri, Springfield, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Entered into an agreement with K9s for Camo to provide dogs that will be trained to be service dogs for veterans

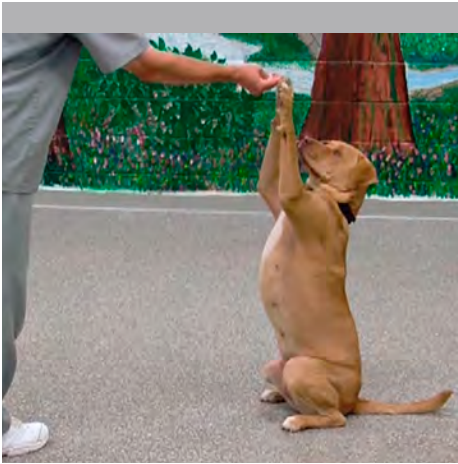
Institutional involvement:

- Staff members can request to have a P4P dog and handler visit their work areas.
- These dogs can sometimes remain in a staff member's office to provide companionship.





# Potosi Correctional Center



Program name: **EDNAS**  
Every Dog Needs A Stay

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 337

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 34

Partnering shelter: Humane Society of Southeast Missouri, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Donated \$500 to the Humane Society of the United States
- Donated \$500 to Austin Pets Alive! to help in the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort
- Donated P4P custom-made fire pit to partnering shelter as a fund-raising item

Institutional involvement:

- Visit the Potosi Reintegration Unit (PRU), Special Needs Unit (SNU), and the infirmary to assist hospice patients.





# South Central Correctional Center

Program name: **Healing Paws**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 467

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 18

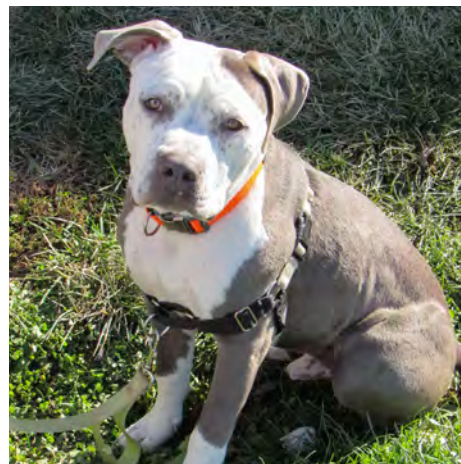
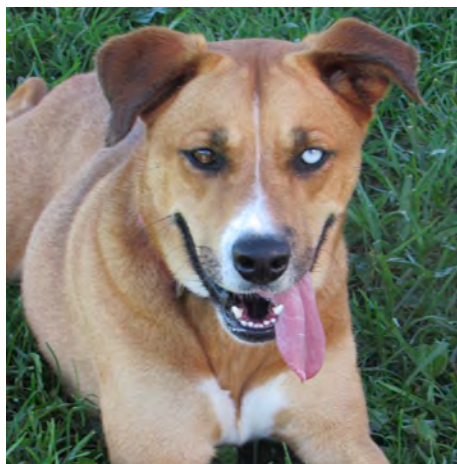
Partnering shelter: Rescue One, Springfield, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Facility is unable to be active in community due to security level; however, they have trained some dogs for seizure alert, trained deaf dogs to respond to sign language commands, and trained dogs in item retrieval for people with mobility impairments

Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in Transitional Care Unit, and on occasion help an ill offender to cooperate with medical staff in order to facilitate treatment





# Southeast Correctional Center



Program name: **Boot Healers**

Year program introduced: 2010

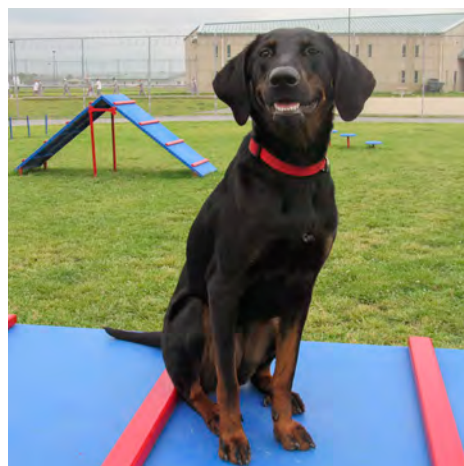
Number of adoptions: 210

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 7

Partnering shelter: Safe Harbor Animal Sanctuary, Jackson, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Participate in Dogwood-Azalea Festival parade in Charleston, Missouri
- Dog Days of Summer community adoption event
- Work with Missouri Patriot Paws to provide a dog for adoption
- More than \$7,000 in donations to shelters and to Austin Pets Alive! in the relief efforts of Hurricane Harvey
- Passing of the Leash ceremony



Institutional involvement:

- Dogs can run 9-piece agility course donated by local adopter
- Visit Elderly Care Unit, Transitional Care Unit, medical unit, recreation areas, Probation and Parole office, small and big yard areas, and housing unit classification offices



# Tipton Correctional Center

Program name: **Pals with Paws**

Year program introduced: 2012

Number of adoptions: 182

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 5

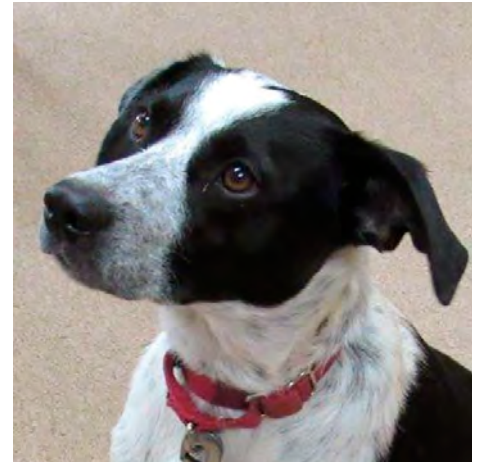
Partnering shelter: Dogwood Animal Shelter, Osage Beach, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Participate in Apple Festival-Versailles; Missouri State Fair-Air Stream Camper Club Show-Sedalia; and Tipton Christmas Parade
- Visit developmentally disabled children at Tipton Elementary School, to show how they can comfort children with disabilities
- Dogs have been adopted for individuals with autism, Parkinson's disease, and mobility impairments, and as a nursing home comfort dog

Institutional involvement:

- Visit staff offices
- Many staff have adopted dogs, as have families of offenders
- Offenders learn discipline and gain empathy





# Western Missouri Correctional Center



Program name: **Western Waifs**

Year program introduced: 2010

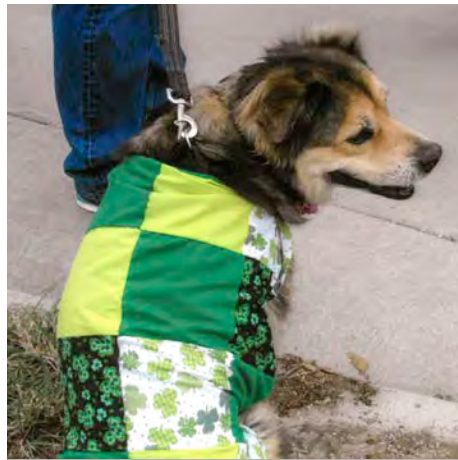
Number of adoptions: 542

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 77

Partnering shelter: City of Cameron Animal Control, Cameron, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Participate in annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cameron and sometimes in the Christmas Parade
- Attended the 4-H Club annual meeting, and one of the dogs was adopted from that meeting
- Cameron Veteran's Home adopted a dog from the program as their "house dog"



Institutional involvement:

- Visit offenders in the Enhanced Care Unit and the Transitional Care Unit
- Offenders housed in general population can have their picture taken with a dog of their choice



# Western Reception, Diagnostic, and Correctional Center

Program name: **P4P at Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center**

Year program introduced: 2010

Number of adoptions: 512

Number of offenders who have received U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates for Animal Handling: 66

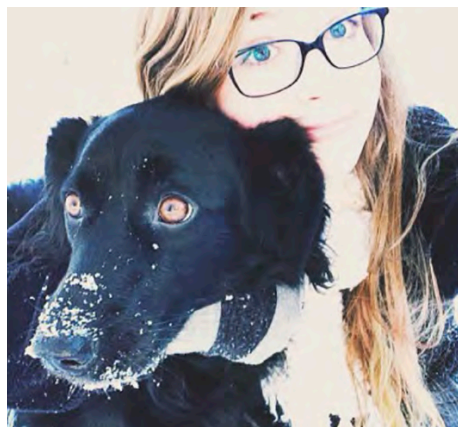
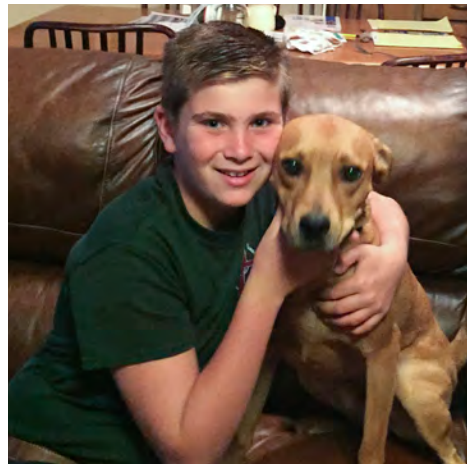
Partnering shelter: City of St. Joseph Animal Shelter, St. Joseph, Missouri

Community involvement:

- Apple Blossom Parade as well as several pet previews

Institutional involvement:

- Some staff members take dogs to their work area for an hour to play and socialize with other staff.
- Staff members from Therapeutic Community bring dogs to their classes







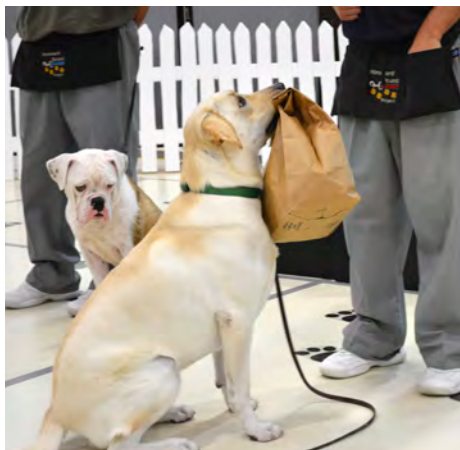
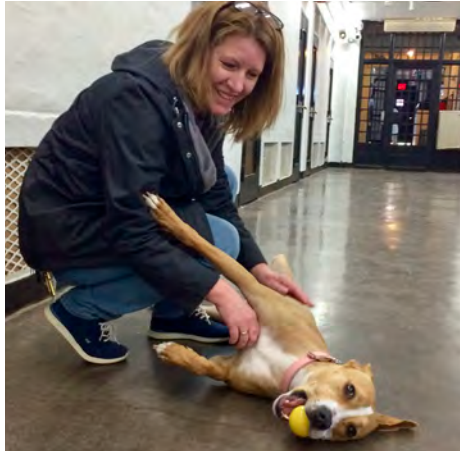
## Special Thanks

*We are grateful to all who have contributed to the success of this great endeavor, helping both dogs and offenders find compassion.*

Anne Precythe, Director  
Alana Boyles, Division Director  
Ryan Crews, Deputy Division Director  
Cindy Griffith, Deputy Division Director  
Karen Pojmann, Communications Director  
Garry Brix, Public Information Officer  
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Cyndi Prudden, Deputy Division Director (Retired)  
Louisa Bolinger, Deputy Warden (Retired)  
Teresa Thornburg, Deputy Warden (MCC)  
Ben Brooke, Assistant Warden (CRCC)  
Rebecca Pierson, Assistant Warden (ACC)  
John Melzer, CCA (JCCC)  
Tina Holland, CCA (SCCC)  
Carol Benskin, Administrative Assistant  
Grabb Animal Shelter (Fulton, Missouri)  
Royal Canin  
Michael Newkirk  
All partnering shelters  
George Lombardi, former DOC Director  
Cindy Wansing, Assistant Director of Education  
DOC offender dog handlers  
Dog trainers and volunteers  
All DOC staff members

**Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.**

**- Roger Caras**





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**Ellie**, 5,000th P4P Adoption, with  
adopter Brian Hogue



## **Missouri Department of Corrections**

**Michael L. Parson, Governor**  
**Anne L. Precythe, Director**

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